



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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Board of Public Works Awards Contract for Final Housing Unit at North Branch Correctional Institution Near Cumberland

TOWSON, MD (June 7, 2006)— Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., today announced Board of Public Works approval of a \$24.8 million contract to a Pittsburgh-based construction company that will allow work to begin soon on the fourth and final inmate housing unit at North Branch Correctional Institution in Cresaptown.

“The economic impact and the public safety importance of this project cannot be understated,” said Governor Ehrlich, who toured the prison last summer while authorizing money from the reserve fund to continue a variety of construction projects at North Branch. “With a hardworking, professional staff and a state-of-the-art facility, the people of Maryland will be glad to know their tax dollars are being maximized effectively to enhance public safety.”

North Branch is the largest and most technologically-advanced prison under construction in the country today. Currently, the prison’s first housing unit is open, the second is nearing completion, and site work has begun on the third. All four housing units are designed for 256 cells upon completion.

North Branch, led by Warden Joe Neder and Assistant Warden Richard J. Graham, Jr., currently employs approximately 100 men and women. When the prison is completed, North Branch and the adjacent Western Correctional Institution will combine to form one of the largest employers in the region.

The \$24.8 million construction contract was awarded to Mascaro Construction of Pittsburgh, which is also building Housing Unit #3. Both Housing Unit #3 and #4 should be completed in early 2008.

The construction of North Branch and its next-door neighbor, Western Correctional Institution (WCI) are the biggest and longest-running projects undertaken by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services’ Division of Capital Construction and Facilities Maintenance.